



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Maryland*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio  
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc  
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse  
101 West Lombard Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800  
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462  
410-209-4885  
FAX 410-962-3091  
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

**September 15, 2004  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT  
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA  
(410) 209-4885**

**BALTIMORE ATTORNEY SENTENCED FOR  
WITNESS TAMPERING**

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Robert Eldridge, age 39, of Baltimore, Maryland, to 21 months in prison followed by 2 years of supervised release for witness tampering. Judge Blake also ordered Eldridge to pay \$20,000 in restitution to Alexander Bushong.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court, Eldridge was a real estate attorney whose law office was located at 1035 Light Street, Baltimore. On August 19, 2003, an FBI agent interviewed Eldridge about his participation in real estate transactions involving Makushamari Gozo. Alexander K. Bushong was a potential witness for the government in United States v. Makushamari Gozo, Criminal No. CCB 02-0390 (District of Maryland), which had been scheduled for trial starting September 15, 2003. Gozo was charged with mail, wire and bank fraud offenses, and pled guilty during a bench trial on these charges on May 11, 2004.

On August 28, 2003, at the FBI's request, Bushong made a consensual recorded telephone call to Eldridge regarding FBI attempts to interview Bushong. Bushong advised Eldridge that the

FBI was trying to locate Bushong. Eldridge advised Bushong not to talk to the FBI and asked if he would mind going on a “little vacation for a while.” They discussed meeting later that day.

At about 6:40 p.m. on August 28, Bushong met Eldridge in an alley near Clement Street in south Baltimore. Eldridge advised that he would pay Bushong \$400 a week to “temporarily” disappear. Specifically, Eldridge told Bushong that he wanted Bushong to get out of town before next week because the Gozo trial was coming up, and wanted him to stay out of town until after Gozo’s sentencing.

On September 2, 2003, subsequent to his arrest, an individual associated with Eldridge provided the FBI with files for 102 W. Barney Street and 1618 Clarkson Street, Baltimore, Maryland, which were taken from a residence owned by Robert W. Eldridge, 1318 South Hanover Street. A workman advised that Eldridge asked him to hide these files subsequent to Eldridge’s meeting with the FBI.

Reviews of the files provided for 1618 Clarkson Street, Baltimore, Maryland; 2547 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland; and 102 West Barney Street, Baltimore, Maryland revealed that there was mortgage fraud in connection with all of those transactions. Eldridge did the closing at his law office, and they all involved Gozo.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bonnie S. Greenberg.